



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

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TRANSITION TO NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AWARDS WILL IMPACT INDUSTRY

Statement by Mr Peter Anderson, Chief Executive

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation, says that even with the transitional arrangements announced today, the new national industrial awards will have a considerable sting for many employers in industries traditionally covered by state industrial relations systems.

Recognition by the tribunal that current economic conditions warrant a cautious approach in making new awards, is welcome.

However, the tribunal's conclusion that "cost increases are in prospect" will disappoint employers who have relied on government assurances that the process was not intended to increase their costs.

Creating national awards is a complex process. Implementation issues will continue to arise beyond today's decision, even with five year phasing-in arrangements.

Today's decision provides a basis for dealing with many of these implementation issues but will need more detailed analysis in each industry sector before its full impact can be assessed.

For further information:

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ACCI represents over 350,000 businesses in every State and Territory and all industries. Our network employs around 4 million employees, ranging from the top 100 companies to tens of thousands of small and medium businesses.

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